

The Old Commonwealth.

Volume XV.--Number 20.

HARRISONBURG, VA., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1880.

\$2.00 a Year in Advance

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

GRANVILLE EASTMAN,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Office over the Post-Office.

GEO. G. GRATTAN,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Office South side of Court-House Square.

F. A. DAINGERFIELD,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Office South side of the Public Square, in Switzer's new building.

GEORGE E. SIPE,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Office west side of Court-House Square, in Harris Building. Prompt attention to all legal business. Jan 30.

CHARLES E. HAAS,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Office on Bank Row, Northwest corner of the Public Square, Mrs. Thurman's building.

WM. B. COMPTON,
(Late of Woodson & Compton) will continue the Practice of Law in the County of Rockingham, the County of Appeals of Virginia, and Courts of the United States.

HENRY A. CONVERSE,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the County of Rockingham, the County of Appeals of Virginia, and Courts of the United States. First National Bank, Harrisonburg, Va. Jan 30.

CHAS. A. FANCY, ED. C. CONRAD, **FANCY & CONRAD,**
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Agents, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the New Law Building, West Market Street.

JOHN E. & O. B. ROLLER,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Practice in the inferior and appellate Courts of Rockingham and adjoining counties, also in the United States Courts in Harrisonburg. Office, Partlow building, three doors above the Post-Office, up stairs. July 31.

HARRIS & HARRIS,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Will practice in the Courts of Rockingham and adjoining counties, also in the United States Courts in Harrisonburg. Office, Partlow building, three doors above the Post-Office, up stairs. July 31.

J. S. HARTSDORFER,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Will practice in all the Courts of Rockingham county, the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, and the District and Circuit Courts of the United States holden at Harrisonburg.

G. W. BERLIN,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Will practice in the Courts of Rockingham and adjoining counties, also in the United States Courts in Harrisonburg. Office in Switzer's new building on the Public Square.

STUART F. LINDSEY,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Will practice in all the Courts of Rockingham, Highland, and adjoining counties, also in the United States Courts in Harrisonburg. Office, East Market Street, over John G. Ziegler's Produce Store. Nov. 13.

PAUL & SHANDS,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Will practice in the Courts of Rockingham and adjoining counties, also in the United States Courts in Harrisonburg. Office in the old Clerk's Office, in the Court-House yard. Dec 1.

PENDELTON BRYAN,
COMMISSIONER IN CHANCERY AND NOTARY PUBLIC, Harrisonburg, Va. Will give special attention to the taking of depositions and acknowledgments wherever in the County of Rockingham. Will also prepare deeds, articles of agreement and other contracts on very moderate terms. Office in the Partlow Building, a couple of doors North of the Post-Office.

O'NEILL & PATTERSON,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW, Harrisonburg, Va. Practice in the Courts of Rockingham and adjoining counties, also in the United States Courts in Harrisonburg. Office in the old Clerk's Office, in the Court-House yard. Dec 1.

JOHN R. JONES,
COMMISSIONER IN CHANCERY AND INSURANCE Agent, near the Big Spring, Harrisonburg, Va. Prompt attention to business. July 31.

DRS. GORDON & HOPKINS,
Dr. J. N. Gordon, of Harrisonburg and Dr. W. D. Hopkins, formerly of Mt. Clinton, have associated themselves in the practice of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics. Special attention to diseases of women. Office near Big Spring, adjoining Switzer's Stone house. Jan 7.

DR. W. O. HILL,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, Office and Residence immediately south of Rev. H. H. H. Jan 10.

DR. RIVES TATUM,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, Harrisonburg, Va. Has removed his office to his residence, corner of West-Market and Cornhill streets. Jan 5.

DR. FRANK L. HARRIS,
DENTIST, Harrisonburg, Va. Office Main street, near the Episcopal Church. J. STEEL HARTMAN, Assistant. Jan 5.

DR. R. S. SWITZER,
DENTIST, Harrisonburg, Va. Established in 1872. Will spend two days every month at Mt. Crawford, the first Wednesday and Thursday after County Court.

DR. D. A. BUCHER,
SURGEON DENTIST, would respectfully inform the public that, having located permanently at Bridge-water, he is prepared to fill, extract and insert teeth, and perform all other operations in his line. Office, one door South of Barber Hotel, Bridge-water, Va.

AND SHE DID IT.
"A Sewing Machine I'll have, I vow,
I will no longer wait,
I'll go right off to CONRAD'S NOW
For fear I'll be too late.
I hear he has all kinds for sale,
The CHEAPEST and the BEST;
The CASE, I know, and particular, which we must
And you may GUESS the rest.
Guess! Guess! no use to Guess about it,
"You bet" that Nat went and bought it;
And he happy today, as she ought to have been
Long, long ago, with her Sewing Machine.
And there is a few more left just as good at
GEO. O. CONRAD'S,
On East Market Street,
HARRISONBURG, VA.
Jan 14.

SELLING AT COST!
I am offering my entire stock of
WINTER BOOTS AND SHOES,
GUM BOOTS, ARCTICS, ALASKAS,
Hats and Millinery
At Cost, to make room for the Spring Trade.
CALL EARLY AND SECURE BARGAINS AT
A. H. HELLER'S
HAT AND SHOE STORE.
Jan 20.

666
A WEEK in your own town, and no capital required. You can see the business trial without expense. The best opportunity ever offered for those willing to work. You should try nothing else until you see for yourself what you can do at the business we offer. No room to explain here. You can devote all your time or only your spare time to the business, and make great pay for every hour that you work. Women make as much as men. Send for special private terms and particulars, which we mail free. \$5 outfit free. Don't complain of hard times while you leave such a chance. Address H. HALLETT & CO., Portland, Maine.

Notice to Trespassers.
All persons are hereby warned against trespassing upon the land of the State of Virginia, located on the Shenandoah Mountain, Virginia, including driving, ranging or hunting cattle, cutting timber, hunting or killing deer, fishing, or in any other manner.
By order of
MISS EMILY HOLLINGSWORTH,
OVERSEER, Agent and Lessee. Nov. 25.

THE OLD METHODIST'S TESTIMONY.

BY PHIL F. DULG.

I praise the Lord, my Christian friends, that I am with you still.

Thought stands like an old log house upon a Western hill;
The music has gone out, you know, the timbers have decayed,
But sunshine on 'em's just as warm as when they first was laid.

Almost a hundred years have passed since I was born,
And then
'Twas only fifteen further on, and I was born again.
I've seen the forest melt away; nice lóuch have been reared;
The world has quite outstripped the Church I'm very much afraid.

They used to tell a Methodist as far as eye could reach—
No gawags on a woman then, no dicker on a man—
But now our congregations are so much by fashion led,
They just look like a rainbow wrecked upon a posy bed.

The direct riders of them days were not so fine and grand;
They took degrees a haunty log and clear up the land;
But when one of 'em rose to preach, I tell you we could smell
The fragrant flowers of Heaven, and the stifling smoke of hell.

We had an "amen corner," too, beside the pulpit stairs.
And while he talked his sermon bents, we lifted up our prayers;
We threw in many a loud "Thank God!" and weren't obliged to go,
To give the Lord the glory, to a class-room down below.

The grand old quat'ry meetin's were to all the brethren dear.
Just like four green oases in the desert of the year;
The people flocked from miles around; my wife would take a score.
After supper they would pray and sleep upon the floor.

I know the world's a movin' on as Galileo said,
For now I rent a cushioned pew to hear and as essay read;
But when through stained-glass windows the sun throws blue and gold,
I cannot help a thinkin' how the glory shone of old.

They call me a "fossil," and a "relic of the past,"
A "log" and a "croaker," too; but this town ways laid
I tread a tremblin' path where two seas of glory flow.
And soon the past and future bliss will swallow up my soul.

And when I reach fair Canaan, the Lord will doubtless use
The mansion of the city will not do for such as me;
So He will let me among the old fashioned saints I think,
And praise Him "neath the trees of life upon the river's brink."

From the Charlottesville Chronicle.

A LONG PRAYER.

HOW A SESSION OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION OF 1860 WAS OPENED.

We find the following in a Kentucky paper without credit, and do not know where it originated. As Gov. Letcher is given as authority for the facts stated, we presume there is foundation for the anecdote, which will be read with interest by everybody who remembers Mr. Southall:

"Governor Letcher the other day gave an anecdote on the Convention of 1860, that must go into print. When Mr. Janney, the President of our Convention, was absent, Mr. Valentine Southall, of Albemarle, was always put in the chair. He was indigestively thin and irritable. Janney had been indisposed for a week, and the Charlottesville dyspeptic presided. During this time there was no opening the session with prayer. Several delegates complained of the omission. Southall said sharply that it was not his duty to hunt up preachers; that was the business of the Sergeant-at-Arms. This officer was Nat. Thompson, of Hanover, a character. Nat. defended himself by alleging that Mr. Janney always attended to getting the persons, but if Mr. Southall thought that the Sergeant ought to have a preacher on hand, he would try to get one. That evening Nat. strolled down Main street in search of a certain 'person,' an old acquaintance of Nat's. The preacher was off duty, and was 'serving tables' by some secular pursuit in Richmond. He was of the hard shell persuasion. Nat. found him, and told him of the need of a 'man like him' to lead in prayer at the Convention next day. The minister was tickled at the request, but hinted that his Sunday suit was rather rusty. Nat. consented to lend him the proper garments. The hard-shell was at Nat's room the next morning and was duly arrayed in clever clerical clothes. The two started for the Capitol. Nat. remarked on the route that the Convention had been without any worship for a week, and it was expected that the lost devotions should be made up that morning. The hard-shell brother, even in his shortest inventions, never could reach 'Amen' under half an hour, and this suggestion of the Sergeant fell in with the inclination of the windy, and as he loved to call himself, 'Wrestling Jacob.' Mr. Southall's gavel tapped to order exactly 11 o'clock. As soon as the parson had struck the regular note, and was beginning to wail the sentences with 'er-r-r,' Nat. quietly slipped from the hall, locked the doors, and went down to Zetelle's for a lunch. He spent half an hour at the restaurant, and slowly returning to the Capitol, and finding the hard-shell in full swing, he went down to Rocketts and dined with Dick Haskins, sauntered back about 2 o'clock, and still had a quarter of an hour to sun himself on the Capitol steps before the swelling tones of the parson began to taper to the lower key of the conclusion. Nat. unbolted the door as the prayer ended. It lasted three hours and a quarter. The Convention was far from a devotional frame of mind when the regular business began. Mr. Southall never insisted on the Sergeant-at-Arms furnishing ministers any more."

THE BRAKEMAN AT CHURCH.

WHAT HE THOUGHT OF THE DENOMINATIONS.

On the road once more, with Lebanon fading away in the distance, the fat passenger crumpling idly on the window pane, the droning passenger sound asleep and the tall, thin passenger reading "General Grant's Tour Around the World," and wondering why that Green's August Flower's should be printed above the doors of a "Buddhist Temple at Banaras." To me comes the brakeman, and seating himself on the arm of the seat, says:

"I went to church yesterday."

"Yes?" I said, with this interested inflection that asks for more. "And what church did you attend?"

"Which do you guess?" he asked. "Some Union Mission School," I hazarded.

"Naw," he said, "I don't like to run on these branch roads very much. I don't often go to church, and when I do I want to run on the main line, where your run is regular and on schedule time, and don't have to wait on connections. I don't like to run on a branch. Good enough, but I don't like it."

"Episcopal?" I guessed.

"Limited express," he said, "all palace cars, and two dollars extra for a seat, fast time, and only stop at the big stations. Nice line, but too expensive for a brakeman. All train men in uniform, conductor's punch and lantern silver-plated, and no train boys allowed. Then the passengers are allowed to talk back to the conductor, and it makes them too free and easy. No, I couldn't stand the palace cars. Rich road, though. Don't often hear of a receiver being appointed for that line. Some mighty nice people travel on it, too."

"Universalist?" I suggested.

"Broad gauge," said the brakeman; does too much complimentary business. Everybody travels on a pass. Conductor doesn't take a fare once in fifty miles. Stops at all flag stations and won't run into anything but a union depot. No smoking car on the train. Train orders are rather vague though, and the train men don't get along well with the passengers. No, I don't go to the Universalist, though, I know some awfully good men who run on that road."

"Presbyterian?" I asked.

"Narrow gauge, eh?" said the brakeman, "pretty track; straight as a rule; tunnel right through a mountain rather than go round it; spirit-level grade; passengers have to show their tickets before they get on the train. Mighty strict road, but the cars are a little narrow; have to sit one in a seat, and no room in the aisle to dance. Then there is no stop-over tickets allowed; got to go straight through to the station your're ticketed for or you can't get on at all. When the car's full no extra coaches; cars built at the shops to hold just so many and nobody else allowed on. But you don't hear of any accidents on that road. It's run right up to rules."

"Did you try the Methodist?" I asked.

"Now you're shouting," he said, with some enthusiasm. "Nice road, eh! Fast time and plenty of passengers. Engines carry a power of steam, and don't you forget it; steam-gauge shows a hundred and enough all the time. Lively road; and when the conductor shouts 'all aboard' you can hear him to the next station. Every train light shines like a head-light. Stop over checks are given on all through tickets. Passenger can drop off the train as often as he likes, do the station two three days and hop on the next regular train that comes thund'ring along. Good, whole-souled companionable conductors; ain't a road in the country where the passengers feel more at home. No passes; every passenger pays full traffic rates for tickets. Wheelmen house air brake on all trains too—Hawkeye."

HOME LIFE A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

One hundred years ago not a pound of coal nor a cubic foot of illuminating gas had been burned in the country. No iron stoves were used and no contrivances for economizing heat were employed until Dr. Franklin invented the iron-framed fireplace which still bears his name. All the cooking and warming in town as well as in the country, were done by the aid of a fire kindled on the brick hearth or in the brick ovens. Pine knots or tallow candles furnished the light for the long winter nights, and sanded floors supplied the place of rugs and carpets. The water used for household purposes was drawn from the deep wells with the creaking sweep. No form of pump was used in this country, so far we can learn, until after the commencement of the present century. There was no friction matches in those days, by the aid of which a fire could be easily kindled, and if the fire went out upon the hearth over night and the tinder was damp, so that the spark would not catch, the alternative remained of wading through the snow a mile or so to borrow a brand of a neighbor. Only one room in any house was warm, unless some member of the family was ill; in all the rest the temperature was at zero during many nights in the winter. The men and women of a hundred years ago undressed and went to their bed in a temperature colder than that of our barns and woodsheds, and they never complained.

Young man, if it is 11 o'clock and she goes to the piano and plays a few bars of "The Sweet By and By," you may consider the season over for the night.

SEEING STONEMAN JACKSON.

Mr. A. Redwood, in one of his "Johnny Reb" papers, in *Scribner*, gives this description of an incident within the Confederate lines. He says:

"It was the end of a bleak November day; the fires of railway ties, extending in a long line either way as far as the eye could follow, made still more neutral by contrast with their ruddy light the dun gray fields of stubble, and the woods in which the gorgeous panoply of the earlier season was paling into russet and ashy tones. The work was over and we were waiting with some impatience for the order to take up the line of march back to camp; for the evening air struck chillily through our threadbare and tattered jackets, and we had eaten nothing since early morning. Moreover, a wild rumor had spread abroad that an issue of fresh pork awaited our return, and though the long habit of expecting nothing good until it came secured us against any serious disappointment, there were not wanting tender memories of 'short biscuits' to raise our anticipations higher than we cared to own. Thus preoccupied, we were fain to refer a distant cheering further down the line to tidings of the coming rations, and we gathered by the roadside in order to get off more promptly when our turn shall arrive. The sound grows more and more distinct every moment, and now, far down the road some moving object can just be discerned in a cloud of dust which travels rapidly our way. Nearer and nearer it comes; louder and more enthusiastic ring the shouts, and now we make out in the dust the figure of a single horseman, with a clump of others trailing off in the obscurity behind him—Jackson is coming! A moment more, and he is here, going at almost top speed; his hat is off; his hair blown back from his broad white forehead; his eyes dancing and his cheeks aglow with excitement, and the rush of keen air. And now the cheers grow deafening and ragged hats are swung more wildly still as the men of the Foot Cavalry recognize their leader. The cavalcade passes like a whirlwind and disappears in the dust up the road, cheered to the very last lagging courier of the escort—for we are in good humor now with ourselves and all the world. And as we step briskly out upon our homeward march, the air feels fresh and invigorating, and the miles seem shorter than they were in the morning; even the beloved biscuit is of a minor consequence, and the promised pork pales beside the thought which fills us—that we have seen Jackson!

And we got the pork besides.

NO ONE TO LOVE HIM.

John Brady, a lanky youth, seven-teen years old, was intoxicated, when arraigned in Essex Market Court, New York City; he blubbered like a baby. The magistrate sternly asked him, "What do you mean by this getting drunk? Why don't you stay at home?"

"I ain't got a home."

"Where's your mother?"

"On the Island."

"Your father?"

"In the work-house."

"Your sisters or brothers?"

"Sister's run off with an Italian fiddler. Brother's in Sing Sing."

"Your aunt?"

"In the insane asylum."

"Your other relatives?"

"Dead broke."

"Friends?"

"Never had none."

"Your employer?"

"I haven't none."

"Where do you live?"

"Nowhere in particular."

"How do you manage for food?"

"Grab or sponge it."

"Have you no feeling?"

"No, sir."

"Where has it gone then?"

"Been kicked out of me."

"Do you want to go to the Island?"

"Don't mind if do."

"Six months."

CRITICISING NEWSPAPERS.—It is a very easy matter to criticise a newspaper, but to publish one, so as to interest, amuse and instruct the public, is no small undertaking. Those who are so prone to find fault with every little item which does not suit their critical and exalted ideas, should buy type, ink and paper, and publish an organ of their own. Let them try it for three months only, and if it don't give them some new ideas of the newspaper business, then we are no judge of human nature. The conceit would be taken out of such individuals so quickly that they would hardly know what was the matter with them, or whether they stood on their hands or feet. We however would suggest a trial.

Some women are never satisfied. The other night, when Jones was reckoning up his accounts, his wife spoke to him several times, and receiving no answer said:

"You treat me cruelly: I fear you no longer love me."

And Jones replied:

"I love you passionately, devotedly, frantically, madly; but if you don't hold your jaw till I get these figures added, I'll give you a clip on the ear."

And in spite of his protestations of love she was not satisfied.

This being leap year, a Chase street young lady thought she would make a proposal, and she did. She proposed to the young man who had been keeping her up nights, that he clear out and give some one else a chance, and he took the hint and cleared.

"DISADVANTAGES OF CITY BOYS."

Some months ago, Rev. Washington Gladden, of Springfield, Mass., believing that if he could find out how the active and prominent men of his own city spent their boyhood, it would help to solve the problem of what is the best training for boys, prepared the following circular, which was sent to the one hundred men who could fairly be said to stand at the head of the financial, commercial, professional and educational interests of the city:

"MY DEAR SIR:—I desire to find out, for the benefit of the boys, how the leading men of this city spent their boyhood.

1. Whether your home during the first fifteen years of your life was on a farm, in a village, or in a city, and,

2. Whether you were accustomed, during any part of that period, to engage in any kind of work when you were not in school?

I should be glad, of course, to have you go into particulars as fully as you are disposed to do; but I do not wish to tax your patience, and I shall be greatly obliged for a simple answer to these questions."

No less than eighty-eight of the busy gentlemen who received this circular were kind enough to answer the questions—some of them briefly, most of them quite fully, and it turned out that few had been brought up like most of boys who crowd the ball grounds and fill the streets of our cities in these later days. Here is a brief summary of the returns:

Of these eighty-eight men, twelve spent the first fifteen years of their life in the city, twelve in villages, and sixty-four were farmers' boys.

But of the twenty-four who lived in villages and cities, six were practically farmers' boys, for they lived in small villages, or on the outskirts of cities, and had the same kind of work to do that farmers' boys have. One of these village boys said:

"I learned to hoe, dig and mow; in fact, I was obliged to work, whether I liked it or no. In winter I went to school, and worked nights and mornings for my board."

Another said: "I used to work away from home some on a farm in the summer and fall. In the winter, when going to school, we three boys used to work up the wood for winter use."

Four others told substantially the same story. As these were about the same as farmers' boys, we may add them to that list, so that seventy out of eighty-eight—almost four-fifths of all these men—had the training of farm-life.

Now how was it with the eighteen city and village boys on the list? Did they have an easy time of it? Five of them did, as they testify; five of them had no work in particular to do, but one of the five says that he studied law when out of school, and that was not exactly play. The rest of the eighteen were poor boys—not paupers, by any means, but children of the humblest classes, many of them in narrow and needy circumstances—and though they lived in cities or villages, they were accustomed from their earliest years to hard work.

"Was generally employed," says one, "during the summer months, and in vacations, in doing any kind of work that offered."

Four of the city boys were newsboys. One of them says: "The last year I was connected with the press, I earned one hundred dollars before breakfast."

Another: "I have paid my own way since eight years of age, without any assistance except my board from my eighth to my eleventh year."

Of all these eighty-eight boys, five only had nothing particular to do. While these boys were growing and working, a great many others—sons of merchants and lawyers—were growing up in Springfield, going to school and amusing themselves, as boys of their class are apt to do. Where are they? Only five of this class are heard from among the eighty-eight solid men of that city. Some of them, perhaps, are prosperous men in other cities, but the number cannot be large, for in Springfield only five men out of eighty-eight came from this class. Ninety-four and a half per cent. were either farmers' boys or poor and hard-working town boys.

Mr. Gladden made his report to the public of Springfield, in the form of a lecture. The mere announcement of the subject alone crowded the church, which is a large one, and the interest in the lecture was so great that the Mayor and several of the representative citizens requested a repetition in the Music Hall. When this came off, the hall was packed and hundreds went away from the doors unable to gain entrance.

Mr. Gladden has rewritten the lecture, and his interesting facts and logical deductions will appear in one of the leading magazines for March. He is now engaged on a "Talk with Girls" for the same magazine. It will be printed before long, and will be of vital interest to girls, and suited to their requirements, as this paper is suited to the boys.

If many of us knew the extent of the Lord's information, we should take less trouble to inform Him that we are poor miserable sinners.

Campanini had "syncope" in St. Louis. They do have the funniest names for mixed drinks in these Western towns. Anything to be un-American.

Pinafore has been translated into Russian, and Buttercup will appear on the bills as Churcraemofcowski.

John—"The philosophy of a dog's running when a can is tied to his tail, instead of biting the string off, is not very clearly understood."

Congress has asked \$2,750,000 for taking the next census.

LIFE-SAVING RULES.

SOME HEALTHY MAXIMS TO BE PLACED IN THE HAT FOR USE IN EMERGENCIES.

Don't you love to read the maxims which some wise man writes for the newspapers, useful rules which are intended to save human life and alleviate human suffering? There is always so much practical common sense in them. Here is a batch, for instance:

"For dust in the eyes, avoid rubbing and dash water in them."

This is especially useful when you are on the cars and there isn't a drop of water in the country nearer than the engine or the next lake, forty-three miles behind you.

"Remove cinders with the point of a pencil."

We never saw that operation tried but once, and then it was successful. The man got out the cinder. He also put out his eye.

"Remove insects from the ear by tepid water; never put a hard instrument into the ear."

Yes, that's pretty advice, now, isn't it? Suppose an Indian Peace Commissioner gets an insect in his ear when he is out in Colorado? Is that man to suffer until he can reach the Mississippi river in order to get enough water to fill his ears?

"For light burns, dip the part in cold water; if the skin is destroyed, cover with varnish."

A beautiful spectacle a man would present who had gone up on a boiler excursion in a steamboat race, and had come down scalded just enough to make two coats of furniture varnish a necessity according to this admirable rule.

"Before passing through smoke, take a full breath and stoop low."

Just imagine now what a circus a smoking car would present if every man who entered it kept that rule past-d in his hat.

"Smother a fire with carpets; water will often spread burning oil and increase the danger."

That's all well enough, but when a man's house is on fire and burning faster than three steam engines can throw water, he hasn't the time, and frequently he hasn't the money, to buy a whole carpet store to throw over the conflagration. And we don't suppose anything less than a tapestry Brussels would do any good.

"For fainting, lay the body flat."

Now, that is a good rule; there is some sense in that. Because, if you are careful to lay your body flat before you faint it may save you a terrific thump when you fall. Let us add to this rule the advice, never faint on a ladder, or in a balloon, or on the top of a church-steeple, or in front of a runaway team. It isn't safe.

"Stick poisonous wounds, unless your mouth is sore; enlarge the wound or better out the wound out without delay."

If that isn't a lively piece of advice for a sane man to give to healthy people! Listen here—don't you do anything of the kind. And if you get a scratch on the throat don't enlarge it or cut it out. And if you get a wound on the back of your neck don't you try to reach it with your mouth. Somebody will try that some day and there will be a broken neck in the family.

"If in the water float on the back, with the mouth and nose projecting."

Now, this is the best rule of the lot. That is the cap shaft. You cut that out and paste it on your cuff, where you can always see it. Just follow that rule, and you will never drown. No matter if you stay in the water twenty years if you will just float on your back, with the nose and mouth projecting above the water, you won't drown. We don't know what wise man wrote these rules, but this last one is worth all the rest.—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

DEMOCRATIC THUNDER FOR 1880.

OLD COMMONWEALTH.

HARRISONBURG, VA.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 26, 1880.

J. K. SMITH, Editor and Publisher.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE EDITOR IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION.

"JONES," Rockingham Co., wants to know if time novels cannot be got at "club rates" in connection with the OLD COMMONWEALTH. This inquiry should have been sent to the publisher of the paper, but I think I can answer for him. I don't believe he would become an agent for the dissemination of impurity in the community on any terms. If you cannot get along without them, apply to the "Commissioners of Sewage and Ash Barrels," of New York city. They should come within their jurisdiction.

"HISTORICAL," Rawley Springs.—"What is the difference between the Germans and Hessians?" That would take more space to explain than this column can afford. The Germans of this Valley emigrated to this country and are acceptable settlers. The Hessians were sent over by England to fight their battles at so much a day, much in the same way as the tall end of the Republican party have been bought by the Readjusters to act as their mercenaries.

"J. K. S. Q." wants our opinion of the Riddleberger Bill. He cannot be a diligent student of the COMMONWEALTH or he would not need to ask such a question. The Bill is like Abe Lincoln's suit of clothes, which was a very good suit, but would not fit him nor anybody else he knew. If the Riddleberger Bill don't fit the State creditors—Do you see the parallel?

"SHINGLE," Flatbush, Va.—"How can I measure off an acre of ground so as to have it square?" Two hundred and nine feet on a side brings it within an inch. Don't get your figures as mixed, however, as Mahone has done as to the amount of the State debt, or your "acre" may be any size or no size at all.

"TENNISON, JR.," Va.—Believe me, sir, when I tell you that you were not cut out for a poet. At shoemaking, or any manual work, or even piloting the festive mule across a lot, with the graceful appendage of a plow slung a few inches to the rear of his kicking apparatus, you might be an entire success, but poetry—never! Let us examine the composition more closely. It is a fit candidate for admission into an orthopedic hospital, as its feet are very lame; besides, "dodge" does not rhyme with "ridge," and the idea of a man pining away because his girl turns out to prefer some one of more mature intellect is absurd, and an unlikely thing in these days of—leap year. Day your poetry, young man, the home-made article is like trace chain carved out of pine—hard to make and no good when done.

"X. Y. Z.," Va.—"What sign is it when you dream of money three nights running?" I never do. I always dream when asleep, never when either walking or running, especially over the bad roads we have just now. If I have misconstrued your inquiry, and you mean "three nights" successively, I should think your supper had disagreed with you.

"VORER," Rockingham, wishes to know to what we attribute the success of the Readjuster party, and does "not" want any nonsense answer. This is most discouraging, after all the pains I have taken to make this column a "guide, philosopher and friend" to the readers of the paper, to be accused, by inference, of writing nonsense. Well, most stern critic, don't you know that an exhaustive answer to your inquiry would be a very long story. Shortly, however, misrule, poverty, depression of trade and a general feeling of being hopelessly in the mud of debt has caused the people to cry for relief. Now let me tell you a secret: "any party that would have promised relief," in a plausible manner, would have been taken up in a similar fashion, as met the traps set by those enterprising hunters Mahone, Paul, Massey and Co., who set it to catch the cone, either coming or going. If you, as a Readjuster, can suggest any scheme by which the State government will cease to be used as a general alms-house for broken down players, indigent respectables, and "burst up" professionals generally, and by which the affairs of the State can be administered with the same economy and fidelity that a merchant exhibits in his private affairs, I will be a perfect "red cap of this barrier" with you. Do not, however, begin by cheating the creditors of the State, or any one else, for that matter.

"VENDOR," Va.—"Do we want to buy a sewing machine?" No, "we" don't! We are pleased to notice the spirit of improvement which has laid hold on some of our good citizens. On Main street beautiful shades have been placed in front of several residences, and attention paid in different ways to the ornamentation of private property. Commerce street is also enjoying the luxury of new pavements, and in other particulars is quite alive with a spirit of enterprise. Several other new streets will soon be opened.—Bridgewater Journal, 20th.

PERSONAL.—We were pleased, on Saturday, to meet Col. Charles T. O'Ferrall, late County Judge of Rockingham county, Va., who had stopped over, whilst en route home from Washington, to spend a day or two here. The gallant Colonel appears in good health and spirits, notwithstanding his defeat by the Readjusters, and enjoys the proud consciousness of the rectitude of his political course.—Spir. of Jefferson, Charlottesville, W. Va.

Brennan & Southwick, at the New York Dry Goods store are determined to close out those dollars worth of winter goods in their store within 30 days, and are now selling Bleached and Brown Cottons and domestics of all kinds at less than to-day's wholesale quotations in Baltimore. Call early and examine goods before their assortment is badly broken, and satisfy yourself in regard to the truth of this statement.

The 3rd anniversary of the Harrisonburg Guards is to be celebrated by the Company, March 9th is the date. Who will get the prize this year? Lively, boys, lively, if you want to win.

Mr. E. F. Dunkin is here arranging to have his horse rebuilt, which was destroyed by fire several weeks ago, on his farm near Keezletown.

HOMICIDE AT LACEY SPRING!

JACOB LINCOLN, Esq., KILLED.

George W. Woods, Pat. H. Reed and Preston Layman in Jail.

The Coroner's Inquest.

Friday night, or very early on Saturday morning last, a homicide occurred at Lacey Spring, in this county, the news of which spread rapidly, and by the recital of the details of which every one was startled.

Lacey Spring, a village of perhaps thirty houses, is handsomely located on the Valley Turnpike, about nine miles North of this place, and contains a population of industrious people, and numbers among them many persons of considerable wealth. It has a very fine school, under the management of competent and experienced teachers, and is the center of an intelligent community, where such an event as that of Friday night last would be so unlooked for as to cause a thrill of horror to pervade the quiet population who reside in the village and adjacent thereto.

From current rumor we learn that the parties above named had been engaged in card playing on Friday night at Lincoln's mill; that there had been some rough words passed between Jacob Lincoln and George Woods, and that the denouement was the result of the quarrel between the two.

From the evidence taken before the Coroner's Jury on Sunday, as well as Wood's confession to officer Neff, it is clear that Woods committed the act; that Pat. H. Reed had knowledge of it and did nothing to prevent it, and that Layman was connected with the affair to the extent, at least, of endeavoring to conceal Woods, if nothing more. The extent of the guilt of the respective parties will very probably be made clear when they are arraigned for trial.

Jacob Lincoln frequently remained at his mill all night, hence his absence from home caused no uneasiness. About 9 o'clock Saturday morning his brother, Abram Lincoln, went to the mill with a bag of corn upon his horse. Seeing no one about, and the front door of the mill locked upon the inside, he left his bag of corn at the front door and went around to the side-door on the eastern side, where he discovered Jacob Lincoln lying with his head upon the door-sill, with several severe wounds upon his head and unconscious though not dead. He raised him up, sat him upon or against a bench and spoke to him, but found him to be unconscious, as no word was uttered by him. He immediately called to others near by, who were at the cooper shop, as well as some persons who were near the mill on business, and sent for Drs. Lincoln and W. T. Jennings, who reside at Lacey Spring. He was carried up to the miller's room in the mill, and placed upon the bed. Soon Dr. Lincoln came and examined his injuries, which he found to be serious, and as best he could, under the circumstances, prepared Mr. Lincoln for removal to his house. Soon after Mr. L. was removed to his home, Dr. Jennings came up, and both the physicians did all they could to relieve him, but he continued to sink rapidly until about three or four o'clock p. m., when he died. His skull was broken in several places and mashed inward compressing the brain.

Woods says he struck Lincoln but one blow, and that in falling the other injuries were inflicted. At first he said he struck Lincoln with his fist, but Constable Neff, saying in reply, that such a statement would be a very long story. Shortly, however, misrule, poverty, depression of trade and a general feeling of being hopelessly in the mud of debt has caused the people to cry for relief. Now let me tell you a secret: "any party that would have promised relief," in a plausible manner, would have been taken up in a similar fashion, as met the traps set by those enterprising hunters Mahone, Paul, Massey and Co., who set it to catch the cone, either coming or going. If you, as a Readjuster, can suggest any scheme by which the State government will cease to be used as a general alms-house for broken down players, indigent respectables, and "burst up" professionals generally, and by which the affairs of the State can be administered with the same economy and fidelity that a merchant exhibits in his private affairs, I will be a perfect "red cap of this barrier" with you. Do not, however, begin by cheating the creditors of the State, or any one else, for that matter.

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A Great Fire in Bridgewater!

Dwellings and Business Houses Burned!

LOSS ESTIMATED AT OVER \$10,000!

Our neighboring village of Bridgewater was visited by a serious conflagration on Monday afternoon last between three and four o'clock.

The first intimation of the fire was when the flames were seen burning through the roof of the dwelling and store room of Mr. Bettie L. Covington. The wind was blowing almost a gale at the time, and the building being old and dry it was very soon reduced to ashes, with much of its contents, including a large portion of her stock of millinery goods. Every building upon her lot was swept away. Her loss is estimated at \$2,000, upon which there was no insurance.

The adjoining building belonging to Jos. Byrd, Esq., and occupied by John E. Sanger & Co., dealers in general merchandise, was also totally destroyed. It was in part the dwelling of Mr. Byrd. The loss of Mr. Byrd upon buildings and personal effects is estimated at \$3,000; no insurance.

The dwelling house of Mrs. Lizzie Arey, on an adjoining lot was also destroyed. The fire was so hot as to burn everything combustible within a considerable distance of where the fire originated. The loss upon Mrs. Arey's property is estimated at over \$1,000. No insurance.

Loss of Messrs. J. E. Sanger & Co., upon stock of stock of goods, is estimated at \$3,000; insured in Petersburg, Va., and Connecticut Insurance Companies, \$1,500 each; Gen. J. R. Jones, agent.

Geo. F. Diakle also lost his stable and contents, with feeding, the loss estimated at \$500, without insurance.

The residence of Mrs. Mary B. Brown, situated about a quarter of a mile distant from the burning buildings, and the large merchant mill of Isaac Marshall, Esq., equally distant, both took fire several times and were saved by great difficulty, the high wind prevailing carrying fire brands in an easterly direction in large places.

Considering the size of the place, this fire was of considerable magnitude and will entail losses upon the owners of the various properties destroyed which falls upon them very heavily indeed. We feel assured that the sympathies of the people of this entire county will go out to them in their desolation, and that such relief will be extended to them as the circumstances demand.

Bridgewater has been long noted as a handsome village, and the indomitable pluck and energy of her people will not long permit the lone and blackened chimneys, which are all the remnants left of the pleasant homes and business houses which have just been destroyed, to long remain, but that other and stately edifices will soon take their places and Bridgewater become handsomer than ever.

1,000 yards calicoes at 6 cents per yard. These are not shop-worn or damaged goods, neither are they odds and ends, the accumulation of several years, but new Spring styles direct from market, and will be sold at retail only at

BRENNAN & SOUTHWICK'S.

An Elopement All Night in the W. Ods.

On Thursday morning last at 1 o'clock, a young couple took the express train at Fishersville for the West. It was Miss Addie L. Wagner, a tall and good looking blonde from Rockingham, and Mr. H. C. Miles, a young man from Richmond. The lady had eloped the Sunday night previous from the residence of her father in Rockingham. They safely reached Lewisburg, W. Va., Thursday where, says the "Criterion" of that town, the young lady herself related her adventures with great gusto to an admiring group who surrounded her at the Lewisburg Hotel; how she left her mother was visiting and her father at the wood pile; how she spent a day in an old barn waiting for her lover; how they got lost in the woods while they were stealing their way to Fishersville on the C. & O. R. W., and, after wandering about all night, were thrown into consternation on finding themselves in the morning only a few hundred yards from her father's house. Having finished her eloquent recital, she announced her intention to array herself immediately in immaculate white for the nuptials that were now at last to be consummated. The young gentleman engaged the services of Mr. Wilhelm, and now nothing remained but to get the license. He moved in confidence on to the clerk's office. But alas! Mr. Spotts, the inexorable, refused the license. The bridal dress had to be doffed. But the spirit of the fair warrior was not crushed. She declared that she had tried three times to get married before, and that she was going to get married this time if she had to go to the end of the world. When she announced her plans, the young man gracefully acquiesced. That evening they left, accompanied by Life Thomas, and, under his skillful leadership, have doubtless since been victorious.—Staunton Vindicator, 20th.

100 Pieces of Bleached and Brown Cottons the best brands, which we purchased before the advance, and will sell them less than wholesale market prices at

BRENNAN & SOUTHWICK'S.

DEATH OF MR. BOWLY.—Franklin Bowly, Esq., of Winchester, Va., dropped dead in the streets of Mountsville, Lancaster co., Pa., on Monday, the 18th inst. He had not been in entirely sound mind for some time, and a few days before his death wandered away from his home in Winchester. His sons who reside in and near that city had been untiring in their search for him; but were unsuccessful. They at first supposed he had gone to Shepherdstown, where he had a married daughter living, but found he had not. If he so intended when he left home, in the aberration of his mind probably he mistook the route and the first harbor of him was a telegram announcing his death at above. His remains were brought to Winchester for interment; and he was laid to rest in Mt. Hebron Cemetery on Wednesday the 19th inst. Mr. Bowly was in the 64th year of his age. He was a successful business man and highly esteemed by all who knew him. He has a son in the drug store of L. H. Ott, Esq., in this place, who was summoned home by telegram and who reached Winchester in time to be present at the funeral of his father.

All the best Calicoes, at old prices at BRENNAN & SOUTHWICK'S.

FIRE ARMS.—A. E. Wallis, of Houck & Wallis, has furnished the Tannery with firearms of a pattern not of recent date perhaps, but somewhat curiosities nevertheless. They were made in the days when fire-arms were not made in the handsome patterns of to day, and one of them will carry a ball nearly large enough for a rifled 6-pound gun. Our veneration for our revolutionary ancestors is greatly increased when we reflect that they went into that great struggle with such weapons; for an army armed with fence rails or garden pallings would likely do more destructive work than armed with such weapons as these. Those old fellows must have been awful mad. As felicitous these samples may have some value, but as weapons of aggression or defense, though formidable in appearance, yet in comparison with the improved "shooting irons" of this day would be nowhere. We shall borrow from Wallis' armory for 4th of July occasions.

The Martha Washington tea party at the Spotswood Hotel, on Monday evening has been represented to us as a very pleasant affair. We were prevented from attending by other engagements. Nor do we know its net cash results.

New Hamburg Edgings and Insertings at BRENNAN & SOUTHWICK'S.

The "Bridgewater Journal" has enlarged the number of its columns to the page but "unsmelled" the columns: Sometimes 7 is no more than 6.

Winter Dress Goods, at less than cost at BRENNAN & SOUTHWICK'S.

FATAL BURNING OF A CHILD.

ELLA RUSSELL, a three year-old child of John Russell, who until last Fall resided in Maryland, was burned so badly on Friday afternoon last, at the house of her uncle George Russell, on East Market street, that she died on Saturday night about ten o'clock. It is supposed her clothing caught fire whilst she was putting some shavings on an open fire place, which suddenly ignited when she was very near the fire. Mr. and Mrs. Russell had been absent only a few minutes from the house, leaving their two little boys, aged twelve to fourteen years, near the back door splitting some wood, and the little girl playing about. In an out kitchen adjoining the main building was a barrel of pine shavings and it is thought she went to this barrel and getting an apron full threw them upon the smoldering brands in the fire place. Their sudden igniting doubtless caught her clothing, when she ran into the yard and screamed, when the boys ran to her as did another boy who saw the fire. The fire was nearly extinguished without much harm to her, but a dog belonging to Geo. Russell seeing the strange boy seized him by the leg and the boy had to leave the child to fight off the dog, when the fire blazed up afresh, the wind blowing upon her, and she was most terribly burned, all the skin being burned from her back and along one side up her right arm and face and nearly all her hair from her head. Dr. Wm. Williams was summoned and did all he could to relieve her sufferings, but without avail, as she died on Saturday night as above stated. She was an interesting little girl, and her death bears very hard upon her father, Mr. John Russell, who about a year ago lost his eldest son by drowning, and last fall his wife died.

The funeral of the little girl took place on Monday forenoon at 11:30 o'clock, she being buried at Cedar Grove church, beside her grandmother, about one and a-half miles east of this place, near the farm of Robt. Liskay, Esq.

A few pairs of white all wool Blankets, to be cleared out at less than cost at BRENNAN & SOUTHWICK'S.

THE WEATHER OF THE WEEK.

WEDNESDAY, February 18.—Afternoon and evening cloudy with rain after night-fall, accompanied with high wind.

THURSDAY, February 19.—Morning cloudy; midday, sun shining and clear; evening quite cool, and night about the coldest of the season to date.

FRIDAY, February 20.—Weather clear and cold all day. Wind sun drying up the mud.

SATURDAY, February 21.—A beautiful day, but quite cool.

SUNDAY, February 22.—128th anniversary of Washington's birthday. Morning bright and beautiful and warm. Noon considerably cooler and clouding up. At 1 o'clock p. m. clouds blown away by the wind, and sky clear. Wind brisk from the West during the afternoon. Night clear, and the moon shining brightly.

MONDAY, February 23.—Clear and pleasant much all day. High wind for a while in the afternoon. Night clear and beautiful.

TUESDAY, February 24.—Pleasant, clear and warm. Light, vapory clouds appeared in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, February 25.—Early morning quite cloudy but warm and tolerably clear by early forenoon.

(To be continued.)

Job lot Torchon Lace Edgings and insertings at 40 per cent. less than market value at BRENNAN & SOUTHWICK'S.

Why So?—Among all the periodicals and literary papers we have ordered by request of subscribers and others this year, not one has been asked for South of the Potomac. Why this is, we cannot answer. There is published in Richmond, Va., a literary paper which is the superlative of American weekly literary journalism. We refer to the "Richmond Standard," which is commended even by Northern literatures, as well as by Southern, as the best in the Union. And yet our people apparently either do not know or do not care to find it out. If people would exhibit the same concern for the moral health of their families that they show in regard to appearances, a wider patronage would be extended to their home papers of high moral tone, and they would aid the building up of a home literature, over which they could exercise some controlling influence, and which would become mutually improving and beneficial. Stop spending money for dime novels and sensational trash and give your patronage to your home literary journals of merit. Such is the "Richmond Standard," and we will forward subscriptions to it with pleasure. \$2.00 a year; \$1.00 for 6 months.

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LOCAL CORRESPONDENCE.

From Furnace No. 2.

FURNACE NO. 2, Feb. 23, 1880.

The Scientific Society you mentioned as having been formed near Shenandoah Iron Works, had their first meeting at No. 2 Furnace Saturday, 21st. The working details are in satisfactory progress, and the success of the organization is now assured. They will at once proceed to collect materials for a museum of Natural History—mineralogy, botany, ethnology and technology. Arrangements have been made for the safe and central custody of the specimens, and the co-operation of your readers is asked. They are open to receive as donations or on deposit specimens of—

A.—Crystallized minerals.

B.—Rare birds, either alive or mounted.

C.—Eggs of rare birds with or without nests.

D.—Rare plants found in Virginia.

E.—Specimens in series illustrating manufactures.

F.—Indian relics, such as arrows, ornaments and pottery.

G.—Remains of late war: correspondence, weapons, battle flags, shot, regimental souvenirs.

Articles sent as gifts may be forwarded to Rev. A. P. Boude, Shenandoah Iron Works, or to Prof. Huddle, Roadside, Va. Articles intended to be deposited in the Society's museum, should be withheld until the Secretary is communicated with. Those interested can gain fuller information by applying to the gentlemen above mentioned.

W. M. B.

Gifts and contributions to the above object will be received at this office and promptly forwarded.—ED.

JEN PRINTING.—The public is sure to find out where the best job printing can be had, at fair prices, hence the rush of work in that line this office has long been favored with, and which since the 1st of January has been unprecedented in the history of this establishment. We are devising means to still further extend our facilities in this line, and shall we hope be soon in shape to do at least double the amount we are now doing and without asking our friends for moment's delay in the execution of the favors. Send on your orders, and we will give every one his turn, and will dispatch your work with the utmost speed. Cheap work for ready cash is our motto. Full line of stationery on hand. Remember, that the COMMONWEALTH Job Printing office is the place for good work, and that we are not surpassed in price or quality of work by any concern in Virginia nor in the city of Baltimore.

SELECTION OF OFFICERS.—At a meeting of Divine Lodge, No. 63, I. O. G. T., at Mt. Crawford, the following officers were elected, to serve from Feb. 1st—P. W. Roller, W. C. T. Larns V. Mooney, W. V. T. R. M. Mooney, W. S. Jno C. Wise, W. F. S. Geo. C. Shippelt, W. T. Mathew Ireland, W. C. M. H. Shippelt, W. M. Jacob Funkhouser, W. I. G. Luther Saunders, W. O. G. Mollie J. Davis, R. S. Mattie J. Shewalter, L. S. Alace Lander, A. M. V. L. Saunders, A. S. This lodge is in a flourishing condition and is now one of the institutions of the town. Its membership is composed of some of the most substantial citizens and is increasing rapidly.

Thanks to A. M. Edinger, of the Valley Bookstore, for a present of one of the Eagle Pencil Company's Automatic Pencils. This pencil is a new invention and supercedes both pen, ink and pencils of the old style. It is a great invention and we call the attention of those to it who have much writing to do. The pencil marks can be erased, same as ordinary lead pencil marks, but when dampened and turned to ink the writing becomes indelible. Try one as they are quite cheap.

It is almost unnecessary to call attention to the advertisement to-day of Mr. P. F. Southwick. It shows for itself. He offers articles of prime necessity at the late stand of G. W. Tabb, near the Depot. Call and see him, when you want goods in his line.

SPEECH ON THE DEBT BILL IN THE SENATE.

MR. HENRY'S REMARKS.

Mr. Henry, said: As there has been no discussion upon the general provisions of this bill, I desire the attention of the Senate for a short while that I may present some views going to show that this bill should be dismissed and another should be framed, having for its object the settlement of the vexed question of the public debt. The objection proposed by the proponents of this bill is to cut down the public debt some thirteen millions of dollars, reducing its principal to less than twenty millions, and to reduce the rate of interest upon this reduced principal to 3 per cent. One of the excuses for this action—set forth in this preamble—is that "the people of this State will never acquiesce in any settlement which shall obligate them and their posterity to pay any part of the interest upon the public debt which accrued during the war and the period of reconstruction."

THE WAR INTEREST.

This interest is stated to be \$15,025,604. I have a report from the Second Auditor to this body dated the 16th of February, 1880, showing that the unpaid interest during these periods amounted to only \$14,109,107.62, so that the bill estimates the amount to be deducted at nearly \$1,000,000 too much, and upon this sum interest is calculated since July, 1871, increasing the error, and this error pervades all the calculations of the bill. But is it true that the people have ever indicated that they would not pay interest? In 1866 the Legislature assumed the war interest and the interest which had afterwards accrued. In 1869 the people adopted a constitution, which included this interest now sought to be stricken out, was acknowledged to be due, and in which provisions were made for its payment and for a settlement with West Virginia for her portion. The same constitution requires each Legislature to publish with its acts a correct statement of the public debt.

HOW THE READJUSTING SENATORS VOTED ON THE WAR INTEREST.

This has been done regularly, and each statement includes this interest as due. In March, 1871, a special act was passed for the settlement of the debt, including this interest. Another

act was passed with a like provision in 1879, and we have record evidence that every Readjusting senator in this body who has been in public life before has voted for acts distinctly recognizing this interest as a part of the debt. In 1874 and in 1875 acts were passed to pay interest on the debt, with this interest capitalized, and in 1878 what is known as the Boccoc-Fowler bill, fixing the amount of the public debt as heretofore stated, was passed. I have before me the journals of these sessions, and I find that every Readjusting senator upon this floor then in the Legislature voted for one or the other of these acts. Among them I find the names of Fulkerson, Paul, and Riddleberger. About one year ago a convention to organize the Readjusting party was held at Mozart Hall. The speech of General William Mahone before that body, and the platform of that party, were the only documents which were ordered to be printed by that body. They went forth to the county as

A STATEMENT OF THEIR POSITION, and the last canvass was conducted professedly upon them. That speech distinctly admitted that the interest now to be excluded formed a part of the public debt, and that it was right to pay it. The platform only asked that the annual interest upon this indebtedness be reduced. The people have sent here a majority of that party, thereby declaring that the principal of the debt heretofore recognized shall not be reduced. How, then, can this body say that the people demand that this interest be stricken from the public debt? Another reason assigned in this preamble is that Virginia, by the result of the war, lost \$500,000,000 of values. This refers to the loss of her slaves. She had 500,000 of them at the beginning of the war, and this estimate places them at \$1,000 apiece—men, women and children—which we all know was many times their value. The statement is that by being freed they have been lost to the State. Are senators willing to subscribe to this statement? Do they not know that

WHAT WAS LOST TO THE MASTER WAS GAINED BY THE FREEDMAN? and that the State, which has a half a million of freedmen instead of a half a million of slaves, has lost nothing? Another statement is that our real and personal estate has shrunk from \$723,000,000 to \$338,000,000. I find by the report of the Auditor made to this body the 13th of December, 1870 [see Journal], that, exclusive of slaves and West Virginia's part, the real and personal estate of this Commonwealth was, in round numbers, \$397,000,000 only in 1861, so that the preamble makes a false statement in that regard. This bill also stated that our annual revenue has been reduced from over four millions to two and a half millions. This, too, is incorrect, as the present rate of taxation brings more revenue than we have ever had.

Another statement in the preamble is also incorrect. Our arrearages in past-due coupons are stated at \$783,241, and the balances due the schools, asylums, &c., at \$1,800,000. The Sec. and Auditor reports that on the 31st of last December the past-due coupons unpaid were only \$238,161, and the Auditor that the arrearages to the schools were about a million and a half, but that he had not deducted uncollected taxes. The arrearages to the asylums have been paid during our session. The figures of the bill are therefore

MANIFESTLY INCORRECT.

Let us look now to the means resorted to for forcible readjustment. They are contained in the 14th and 15th sections, which stand like Seylla and Charybdis to engulf the passing coupons. The first prohibits their being taken by the tax collectors, contrary to the agreement upon their face; and subjects the officer to a penalty for so doing. It further takes away from the tax-payer the writs of injunction, supersedeas, mandamus, and prohibition, and directs that he shall first pay the collector in money, and then sue him to get back the amount which he might have claimed to pay in coupons. This provision is taken from an act of Tennessee which was passed upon the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Tennessee vs. Sneed, 6th Otto. In that case the State of Tennessee had agreed to take the notes of the Bank of Tennessee in payment of her taxes, under a charter in 1838, when there was no law that allowed suits against the State. Afterward a law was passed allowing suits against the State, and in 1865 that law was repealed, the notes issued during the war were prohibited from being taken, and an act similar to this section was passed.

WHAT THE SUPREME COURT SAYS.

The Supreme Court admitted that all laws in existence at the date of a contract effecting its construction and enforcement form a part of it and cannot be changed so as to impair its value—a principle which has been asserted over and over again by that court. But as the law repealed was not in existence at the date of the charter, they held that that question was not involved; and that the only question presented to them was whether the remedy given was sufficient to enforce the contract and equivalent to that taken away. They decided this in the affirmative. In the very next volume of Otto the case of Keith vs. Clark is reported, in which the question arose whether the prohibition by Tennessee of her tax-collectors from taking the war issues of the bank for taxes was contrary to that provision of the Constitution of the United States forbidding a State to impair contracts; and the Court held that it was. These bank notes were similar to our tax-receivable coupons. I will call attention to

ANOTHER RULE OF THAT COURT.

found in the case of Abbott vs. Supervisors, to the effect that where the highest court of a State has once decided that a contract is binding on the State, the United States Supreme Court will hold it, although the Legislature may attempt to change the contract and the State court may reverse its own decision. Now, our Supreme Court, in the case of Wright vs. Antona, 22d Gratian, has held these coupons to be binding contracts of this State. No act of the Legislature and no change of decision by that court can affect them; for they will be enforced by the Supreme Court of the United States; and this section of the bill will

OLD COMMONWEALTH

HARRISONBURG, VA.

THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 26, 1880.



THE FARM AND HOME.

HOUSEKEEPER'S HELP.

New Linen may be embroidered more easily by rubbing it over with fine white soap; it prevents the threads from cracking.

GRAHAM BREAD.—One pint of sour milk, one egg, one tablespoonful of soda, one-half cup of molasses, one quart of Graham flour; mix well together; bake one hour.

PICKLED MUTTON HAMS.—Three gallons of soft water, one pound of coarse sugar, two ounces of saltpetre, three pounds of common salt. Boil and remove the scum, and when cold pour over the meat. In two or three weeks the ham will be excellent for baking or boiling. It may be smoked if preferred.

TO SOFTEN PUTTY.—Slack three pounds of stone quicklime in water, then add one pound of pearl ash, and make the whole about the consistency of paint. Apply it to both sides of the glass, and let it remain for twelve hours, when the putty will be so softened that the glass may be easily taken out of the frame.

HOW TO MAKE TEA GO FURTHER.—A method has been discovered for making more than the usual quality of tea from any given quantity of the leaf. The whole secret consists in steaming the leaf before steeping. By this process it is said fourteen pints of good quality tea may be brewed from one ounce of tea.

EFFERON TART.—This is a favorite English confection. To make it take three pounds of the best brown sugar and boil with one and one-half pints of water until the candy hardens in cold water. Then add one-half pound of sweet flavored fresh butter, which will soften the candy. Boil a few minutes until it again hardens and pour it into trays. Flavor with lemon if desired.

GOOD BROTH FOR A SICK PERSON.—Take a few slices of lean dried beef, put to boil in a quart of water or a little more, wash 2 tablespoonfuls of rice, put in with the beef, and simmer slowly till the rice is boiled very tender, put in more water if necessary while boiling; when done take out the beef, and add one or two spoonfuls of rich sweet cream, boil two or three minutes, pour in a bowl, and when cool it is ready for use.

MOCK BUCKWHEAT CAKES.—Warm one quart skimmed milk to the temperature of new milk; add one teaspoonful dairy salt and three tablespoonfuls good lively yeast; thicken to the consistency of real buckwheat cakes with Graham meal in which three small handfuls of fine corn meal have been mixed. Very coarse "middlings," such as one gets from country mills, answer quite as well, and none but an expert would know the difference between the imitation and the real.

CURE FOR THE DROPSY.—The following recipe for the cure of the dropsy has been a ready published; but in order that it may be kept before the public, and especially for the benefit of the poor, it has been thought best by one who has experienced its excellence, to give it additional circulation. Recipe: Take a six quart jug of her feeder, put therein a pint of mustard, one double handful of parsley roots, one double handful of hennip vire shavings, and one double handful of horse radish roots. Let them simmer together forty eight hours, when it will be fit for use. Take a tea cup full of this three times a day. Virginia Advertiser.

MEXICAN HORSES.

Horses are bred in great numbers at the different haciendas in provinces, some of the large estates having eighty or a hundred thousand cattle and fifteen or twenty thousand horses and mules. The pasturage is green all the year round, and the animals receive no other food. They multiply as the birds do, and with as little toil to their owners. Generally speaking, they run wild until wanted, when they are caught with a lasso, hood, and blinkers. For the first fifteen or twenty minutes they exert their whole strength to throw their rider, but, finding their efforts unavailing, patiently submit, and generally give but little trouble afterward. Owing to their immense numbers, horses are sold very cheap, the average price for an unbroken herd being eight or ten dollars a head, with but little demand at that. It sometimes occurs that the government purchases a few hundred for the army, but, generally speaking, there are few occasions where they can be sold. Mexican horses, as a rule, are not handsomely, and are seldom more than fourteen hands high; still they have nothing of the regular build of the pony about them. Fed entirely upon grass, they yet endure more fatigue and are capable of maintaining a rapid gait for a longer time than the grain-fed horses of other lands. In the towns and cities they receive the scantiest of care and the meagerest allowance of food. Tied up the whole day in the stifling court yards, they stand patiently awaiting the evening meal. Frequently they are turned loose to graze when it requires the use of a lasso to catch them. So familiar with this instrument do they become, that the moment that the animal feels the rope about its neck it stands stock still, when without it it would not suffer itself to be saddled or bridled.

The boy who spends an hour each evening lounging idle on the street corners, wastes in a year three hundred and sixty five precious hours, which, if applied to study, would familiarize him with the rudiments of almost any science.

FURNITURE.

T. P. HUMPHREYS,

MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN

FURNITURE.

Bridgewater, Va.

I take this opportunity of thanking my numerous customers for their liberal support during the past year, and hope to merit a continuance of the same. To the people of Harrisonburg and Rockingham county, I would say that there is no need of anything in my line. I would be pleased to have you examine my stock of goods before deciding to purchase elsewhere, because I think you will find it to your interest to make selections of some of my beautiful modern designs. Please examine the very extensive low prices annexed:

BEDESTAHS, DRESSING CASES, BUREAUS, &c.
Walnut Bedsteads from \$5.00 to \$20.00
Pine Bedsteads from \$3.00 to \$10.00
Single Bedsteads from \$3.00 to \$10.00
Dressing Cases, with marble top and wood fronts, from \$15.00 to \$25.00
Dressing Bureaus, from \$14.00 to \$20.00
Pine drawers Bureaus, from \$8.00 to \$12.00
Walnut Bureaus, from \$10.00 to \$20.00
Tall Racks, all kinds, from \$1.00 to \$2.00
Wardrobes, from \$6.00 to \$25.00

TABLES, &c.
Parlor Tables, with marble top, \$4.00 to \$20.00
Fall-leaf Tables, walnut and ash, per \$5.00 to \$10.00
Extension Table, walnut and ash, per \$3.00 to \$10.00
Tea Tables of all styles, from \$2.00 to \$15.00
China Cabinets, walnut, from \$14.00 to \$20.00
Pine drawers Bureaus, from \$8.00 to \$12.00
Walnut Bureaus, from \$10.00 to \$20.00
Tall Racks, all styles, from \$1.00 to \$2.00
Wardrobes, from \$6.00 to \$25.00

CHAIRS, &c.
Lounge chairs, all styles, from \$7.00 to \$15.00 each
Sofas of all styles, from \$14.00 to \$25.00 each
Parlor Suits, good style and
Chairs, from \$4.00 to \$10.00 each

PICTURE MOUNTING, &c.
A full line of Mounting kept in stock, and Picture Frames of all styles, in a variety of materials. Also, Picture Brackets, &c., &c.

Sash, Doors, and Blinds.
Sash, 6x10 glass, at \$1.00 per light
Sash, 8x12 glass, at \$1.25 per light
Sash, 10x14 glass, at \$1.50 per light
Sash, 12x16 glass, at \$1.75 per light
Sash, 14x18 glass, at \$2.00 per light
Sash, 16x20 glass, at \$2.25 per light
Sash, 18x22 glass, at \$2.50 per light
Sash, 20x24 glass, at \$2.75 per light
Sash, 22x26 glass, at \$3.00 per light
Sash, 24x28 glass, at \$3.25 per light
Sash, 26x30 glass, at \$3.50 per light
Sash, 28x32 glass, at \$3.75 per light
Sash, 30x34 glass, at \$4.00 per light
Sash, 32x36 glass, at \$4.25 per light
Sash, 34x38 glass, at \$4.50 per light
Sash, 36x40 glass, at \$4.75 per light
Sash, 38x42 glass, at \$5.00 per light
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Sash, 52x56 glass, at \$6.75 per light
Sash, 54x58 glass, at \$7.00 per light
Sash, 56x60 glass, at \$7.25 per light
Sash, 58x62 glass, at \$7.50 per light
Sash, 60x64 glass, at \$7.75 per light
Sash, 62x66 glass, at \$8.00 per light
Sash, 64x68 glass, at \$8.25 per light
Sash, 66x70 glass, at \$8.50 per light
Sash, 68x72 glass, at \$8.75 per light
Sash, 70x74 glass, at \$9.00 per light
Sash, 72x76 glass, at \$9.25 per light
Sash, 74x78 glass, at \$9.50 per light
Sash, 76x80 glass, at \$9.75 per light
Sash, 78x82 glass, at \$10.00 per light
Sash, 80x84 glass, at \$10.25 per light
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Sash, 90x94 glass, at \$11.50 per light
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Sash, 94x98 glass, at \$12.00 per light
Sash, 96x100 glass, at \$12.25 per light
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Sash, 602x606 glass, at \$75.50 per light
Sash, 604x608 glass, at \$75.75 per light
Sash, 606x610 glass, at \$76.00 per light
Sash, 608x612 glass, at \$76.25 per light
Sash, 610x614 glass, at \$76.50 per light
Sash, 612x616 glass, at \$76.75 per light
Sash, 614x618 glass, at \$77.00 per light
Sash, 616x620 glass, at \$77.25 per light
Sash, 618x622 glass, at \$77.50 per light
Sash, 620x624 glass, at \$77.75 per light
Sash, 622x626 glass, at \$78.00 per light
Sash, 624x628 glass, at \$78.25 per light
Sash, 626x630 glass, at \$78.50 per light
Sash, 628x632 glass, at \$78.75 per light
Sash, 630x634 glass, at \$79.00 per light
Sash, 632x636 glass, at \$79.25 per light
Sash, 634x638 glass, at \$79.50 per light
Sash, 636x640 glass, at \$79.75 per light
Sash, 638x642 glass, at \$80.00 per light
Sash, 640x644 glass, at \$80.25 per light
Sash, 642x646 glass, at \$80.50 per light
Sash, 644x648 glass, at \$80.75 per light
Sash, 646x650 glass, at \$81.00 per light
Sash, 648x652 glass, at \$81.25 per light
Sash, 650x654 glass, at \$81.50 per light
Sash, 652x656 glass, at \$81.75 per light
Sash, 654x658 glass, at \$82.00 per light
Sash, 656x660 glass, at \$82.25 per light
Sash, 658x662 glass, at \$82.50 per light
Sash, 660x664 glass, at \$82.75 per light
Sash, 662x666 glass, at \$83.00 per light
Sash, 664x668 glass, at \$83.25 per light
Sash, 666x670 glass, at \$83.50 per light
Sash, 668x672 glass, at \$83.75 per light
Sash, 670x674 glass, at \$84.00 per light
Sash, 672x676 glass, at \$84.25 per light
Sash, 674x678 glass, at \$84.50 per light
Sash, 676x680 glass, at \$84.75 per light
Sash, 678x682 glass, at \$85.00 per light
Sash, 680x684 glass, at \$85.25 per light
Sash, 682x686 glass, at \$85.50 per light
Sash, 684x688 glass, at \$85.75 per light
Sash, 686x690 glass, at \$86.00 per light
Sash, 688x692 glass, at \$86.25 per light
Sash, 690x694 glass, at \$86.50 per light
Sash, 692x696 glass, at \$86.75 per light
Sash, 694x698 glass, at \$87.00 per light
Sash, 696x700 glass, at \$87.25 per light
Sash, 698x702 glass, at \$87.50 per light
Sash, 700x704 glass, at \$87.75 per light
Sash, 702x706 glass, at \$88.00 per light
Sash, 704x708 glass, at \$88.25 per light
Sash, 706x710 glass, at \$88.50 per light
Sash, 708x712 glass, at \$88.75 per light
Sash, 710x714 glass, at \$89.00 per light
Sash, 712x716 glass, at \$89.25 per light
Sash, 714x718 glass, at \$89.50 per light
Sash, 716x720 glass, at \$89.75 per light
Sash, 718x722 glass, at \$90.00 per light
Sash, 720x724 glass, at \$90.25 per light
Sash, 722x726 glass, at \$90.50 per light
Sash, 724x728 glass, at \$90.75 per light
Sash, 726x730 glass, at \$91.00 per light
Sash, 728x732 glass, at \$91.25 per light
Sash, 730x734 glass, at \$91.50 per light
Sash, 732x736 glass, at \$91.75 per light
Sash, 734x738 glass, at \$92.00 per light
Sash, 736x740 glass, at \$92.25 per light
Sash, 738x742 glass, at \$92.50 per light
Sash, 740x744 glass, at \$92.75 per light
Sash, 742x746 glass, at \$93.00 per light
Sash, 744x748 glass, at \$93.25 per light
Sash, 746x750 glass, at \$93.50 per light
Sash, 748x752 glass, at \$93.75 per light
Sash, 750x754 glass, at \$94.00 per light
Sash, 752x756 glass, at \$94.25 per light
Sash, 754x758 glass, at \$94.50 per light
Sash, 756x760 glass, at \$94.75 per light
Sash, 758x762 glass, at \$95.00 per light
Sash, 760x764 glass, at \$95.25 per light
Sash, 762x766 glass, at \$95.50 per light
Sash, 764x768 glass, at \$95.75 per light
Sash, 766x770 glass, at \$96.00 per light
Sash, 768x772 glass, at \$96.25 per light
Sash, 770x774 glass, at \$96.50 per light
Sash, 772x776 glass, at \$96.75 per light
Sash, 774x778 glass, at \$97.00 per light
Sash, 776x780 glass, at \$97.25 per light
Sash, 778x782 glass, at \$97.50 per light
Sash, 780x784 glass, at \$97.75 per light
Sash, 782x786 glass, at \$98.00 per light
Sash, 784x788 glass, at \$98.25 per light
Sash, 786x790 glass, at \$98.50 per light
Sash, 788x792 glass, at \$98.75 per light
Sash, 790x794 glass, at \$99.00 per light
Sash, 792x796 glass, at \$99.25 per light
Sash, 794x798 glass, at \$99.50 per light
Sash, 796x800 glass, at \$99.75 per light
Sash, 798x802 glass, at \$100.00 per light
Sash, 800x804 glass, at \$100